

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – ACTION SUMMARY
Thursday, March 27, 2008 – 6:00 p.m.

Administration Building – Board Chambers
2101 Hurley Way, Sacramento, CA 95825

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Lawson. Board Members present: Clark, Goold, Granados, Jones, Kelly, Lawson, Valley. Directors Engellenner, Trujillo, absent. Staff: Fire Chief Mette, Associate General Counsel Chavez, Board Clerk Tilson.

PLEDGE TO FLAG

METRO CABLE 14 ANNOUNCEMENT

The open session Meeting is videotaped for cablecast on Metro Cable 14. Replay on Sunday, March 30 at 4:00 PM and Monday, March 31 at 6:00 PM on Channel 14; Webcast at www.sacmetro cable.tv. A VHS copy is also available for checkout from any library branch.

**PUBLIC OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST WITHIN
DISTRICT JURISDICTION INCLUDING ITEMS ON OR NOT ON THE AGENDA**

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Board Meeting Action Summary—March 13, 2008

- **Board Action:**
Granados/Goold—approve the Consent Agenda. ROLL CALL: Directors Clark, Goold, Granados, Jones, Kelly, Lawson, Valley, AYE. Directors Engellenner, Trujillo, absent. Motion carried.

ACTION ITEM(S):**1. FISCAL YEAR 2007/2008 MID-YEAR BUDGET ADJUSTMENT—(Sponable)**

- A detailed PowerPoint presentation was given to include the following highlights:
 - First full payment of \$2.4 million was made in 2007 for Pension Bonds.
 - 1000 Account grew by 17% with addition of medics and an increase in service levels.
 - 2007 Revenues were off by \$1.2 million.
 - Medic revenue loss of \$700,000 in 2007 due to Medicare changes in billing but it has rebounded substantially this year.
 - 2008 budget at 85.03% with significant cuts/attrition of \$4.9 million.
 - Total revenue growth of 6% - 7%.
 - Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) – Anticipate applying \$700,000 from POB payment and \$1.6 million in savings from pre-funding PERS.
 - Pension Obligations Bonds are well funded.
 - Supplemental Property Tax revenue – latest County projection of a 40% decrease due to the housing market.
 - Various graphs for years 2003 – 2010 depicting Tax Revenue Growth and Operating Revenue Growth; Salaries and Benefit Growth 2001 to 2010.
 - Reductions included personnel/position consolidations; leave usage down by 23,646 hours in ten months – anticipate 28,000 hours in twelve months equating to approximately \$1.5 million in savings.
 - Three-year budget projections shown with OPEB contribution versus no OPEB contribution.
 - Operating Revenue Growth projections: 5.079% – 2007/08; 2% for both 2008/09 and 2009/10.
- Captain Pat Monahan, Sacramento Fire Fighters Local 522, acknowledged all personnel for working together in an effort to reduce cost while there is no reduction in services or available resources. Agreed with Director Jones on the importance of OPEB to take care of the current and future District retirees with no loss of retiree benefits. Emphasized the fact that the Union has no interest in opening up its contract. Thanked Fire Chief Mette and the Board for their continued support of the District personnel.

- Staff anticipates substantial decreases in all four expenditure categories (Salaries and Benefits; Services and Supplies; Taxes, Licenses, and Assessments; and Fixed Assets) for an overall decrease of \$3,392,646 as shown in the schedule below. For historical tracking and consistency, budget officers, upon approval, continue to expend a budget line while finance staff monitors the overall object level.

The following is the projection through the end of the 2007/08 Budget year:

		Current Budget 2007/08	Actual & Projected Expenditures 2007/08	Mid-Year Adjustment
1000	Salaries and Employee Benefits	\$134,548,504	\$134,187,227	\$(361,277)
2000	Service and Supplies	15,737,534	15,087,902	(649,632)
3000	Taxes, License, & Assess.	2,382,336	1,921,160	(461,176)
4000	Fixed Assets	21,330,285	19,409,724	(1,920,561)
	Total	\$173,998,659	\$170,606,013	\$(3,392,646)

- Staff recommends that the overall decrease to this year's budget be "unallocated" from Fund 212A and returned to the Capital Facilities Fees Fund Balance in Fund 212-D.

A Resolution No. 38-08—Reallocate Funds of the District

- Board Action:**
Goold/Jones—adopt the Resolution. ROLL CALL: Directors Clark, Goold, Granados, Jones, Kelly, Lawson, Valley, AYE. Directors Engellenner, Trujillo, absent. Motion carried.

**B. Resolution No. 39-08—Establish the Fiscal Year 2007/2008
Unreserved Fund Balances in Account Funds 212-A and 212-D**

- Board Action:**
Granados/Clark—adopt the resolution. ROLL CALL: Directors Clark, Goold, Granados, Jones, Kelly, Lawson, Valley, AYE. Directors Engellenner, Trujillo, absent. Motion carried.

2. Station 61 Site – Emergency Demolition and Asbestos Removal—(Monahan)

- The Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District purchased five (5) homes on Ribier Way in Rancho Cordova, and a small business located on Folsom Boulevard near Aramon Drive for the future expansion/replacement of the existing Fire Station 61 at 10595 Folsom Boulevard, Rancho Cordova, California. The specific addresses are:

2730 Ribier Way	Residential
2734 Ribier Way	Residential
2738 Ribier Way	Residential
2742 Ribier Way	Residential
2746 Ribier Way	Residential
10597 Folsom Blvd	Commercial building
- The District has experienced frequent trespassing and vagrancy issues at each of these sites. These issues have caused life and health safety issues to arise for the residents surrounding these buildings. After discussion with our Legal division, it is requested that the removal of these buildings be declared an emergency, thus allowing the District to expedite the numerous City and County requirements required to be completed prior to the actual demolition of the buildings.
- Emergency status would allow hiring required services utilizing the informal bid process which can be accomplished more rapidly than the formal construction bid process. Staff does not believe there will be any additional costs due to using the less formal process. Further, staff believes that the value of immediately abating the buildings outweighs any value that may be attributed to the formal bid process.
- Documentation on the Demolition Project was distributed to the Board outlining the timelines and course of events to date. Multiple informal bids were received and the total cost for the demolition project is approximately \$40,000 - \$43,000.
- Staff recommends approval to utilize informal bid process to allow for the most rapid abatement of the health and safety hazards posed by the vacant buildings.
- Associate General Counsel Chavez agreed with the staff recommendation stating this request falls under Administrative Purchasing and Contracting Policy 110.01, effective date 11/4/92, revised 8/23/06. He read into the record Section 15, Emergency, outlining the requirements. Based on the evidence provided, there are very serious health conditions that need to be addressed immediately.
- Director Jones recommended approval with the understanding of the findings and the evidence presented that this is an urgent health and safety issue for the District, the City of Rancho Cordova, and the neighborhood immediately affected.
- Director Goold expressed concern that emphasis be placed on accomplishment of the work by the contractor on an emergency basis timeline.
- Director Kelly requested that Project Manager Monahan check with the low bidder, Double B Demolition, regarding payment of prevailing wages.

- **Board Action:**
Jones/Granados—approve the utilization of the informal bid process to allow for the most rapid abatement of the health and safety hazards posed by the vacant buildings. ROLL CALL: Directors Clark, Goold, Granados, Jones, Kelly, Lawson, Valley, AYE. Directors Engellenner, Trujillo, absent. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION ITEMS(S):

[Taken out of Order prior to Action Items]

1. District's Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Program—(Tom McCampbell, Vice President-Gregory B. Bragg & Associates – Third Party Administrator)

- Mr. McCampbell introduced Dr. Alan Randle and Dr. Mark Denison from Professional Dynamics, the medical utilization review company for Gregory B. Bragg & Associates, who were present to answer any technical questions.

He provided a detailed history of the utilization review process and workers' compensation. Workers' Compensation deals with the concepts of presumptions. If anyone contracts heart or lung disease, it is presumed by law to be industrial. The same presumptions apply to medical treatment. In January 2004, the State Legislature eliminated the presumption that the employee's treating physician was correct and implemented a new guideline that is based on evidence-based medical treatment pursuant to the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM). The Legislature said the ACOEM guidelines are now presumptively correct for medical treatment. The Legislature further required all claims administrators and insurance companies to establish, maintain, and file a utilization review procedure with the State of California, which was mandatory by law. This process reviews and approves, delays, or denies requests for payment of treatment by the employee's physicians. Claims examiners can no longer deny or modify treatment requests and are required by law to refer these issues to the utilization review companies. Currently if there is a request for reasonable and usual medical treatment, most of their examiners bypass the utilization review process and approve it. If a physician makes a request for something very technical and not understood, it is referred to utilization review for evaluation based on the ACOEM guidelines. The company will approve or ask for modification by the treating physicians or issue a denial. This denial under the law now is presumptively correct. The employee has a right to apply for a panel Qualified Medical Examiner (QME), a panel list sent out by the State of California, and the employee can pursue that alternative. They go a step further and employ a process called RECON. Doctors usually meet and most of the time, the issue is resolved. Peer Review is also offered involving a second outside doctor that specializes in the treatment to offer an

opinion and verify whether or not the utilization review company is correct. The 2004 legislation did result in lengthy delays because the utilization review companies were not equipped to respond. They have moved to a triage process for quicker approval. If there are questions, a nurse case-manager will call the doctor. Most of the time the doctors reach an agreement and the treatment goes on. January through June 2007, there were 99 Metro requests for utilization review. July through December 2007 that number was reduced to 66. From January to March 2008, the number of requests for utilization review was reduced to 11, with 4 still pending. This now is a process that is not used frequently unless doctors or medical care seem to be going in a different direction than was designed by evidence-based medicine.

- Director Goold stated his initial inquiry was not intended to blame or discredit the Fire Chief and his staff. He was approached by firefighters who had issues with the utilization review process. The presentation tonight was a good education to identify the process. The intent is to expedite the process and get the individual back on the job, stop paying backfill cost, and make it more efficient for everyone.
- Mr. McCampbell stated their goal is to get medical treatment and the employees back to work quickly to alleviate lost time. The biggest challenge they have in the administration of workers' compensation is working with physicians and getting them to respond, especially on difficult utilization review cases.
- Captain Monahan, Sacramento Fire Fighters Local 522, asked several questions and stated he would call Mr. McCampbell for further discussion.

Station 29

Distributed a binder with Construction Progress Photos of the Fire Station #29 Replacement Project at 8681 Greenback Lane, Orangevale, California, provided by Shawn Strohman of Vanir Construction Management, who was present tonight.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT—(Trujillo)

- None

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT—(Mette)

- March 29, 2008, 9 AM–Noon at Rancho Cordova City Hall – next Fire Chief's Open Forum will be held.
- California Fire Mechanics Academy finished its conference last week. The District shop was one of the host sites. He attended the banquet last Wednesday with Deputy Chiefs Miller and Eastman. Over 400 students participated in the academy.
- March 19, 2008 – Attended the City of Rancho Cordova 2 x 2 meeting. Working on some issues involving emergency planning for the city; demolition of houses on Station 61 site; general financial conditions of Metro and the Rancho Cordova; and status of the Anatolia area.
- Last Tuesday he and Associate General Counsel Chavez were down at the Capitol working with AB 2278. The bill will be heard on April 30. Assembly Member Dave Jones signed on as co-sponsor with Assembly Member Aghazarian. CPF and Fire Districts Association of California are also sponsoring the bill.
- Next week he will be going to Washington, D. C. for the Metro Chamber of Commerce Cap-to-Cap and returning for the next Board meeting.
- March 30, 2008 at Station 21– conducting a “shave your head for a cure” for Captain Jim Peterson. Donations can also be made on the District website under cancer donations and will be given to the “Relay for Life.”
- **OPERATIONS DIVISION REPORT –**
Deputy Chief Geoff Miller reported on the following:
L.A. City lost a Firefighter last Wednesday. Emphasized for public awareness that this is a very dangerous profession.

Incident Report –
Twelve working structure and six grass fires, and one water rescue since the last Board meeting.

Field Saves –
E108B performed BLS CPR and used the AED to defibrillate the patient who left the hospital in about a week.

Good Deeds –

Station 59A is involved with helping the family of a Stockton Captain who recently lost his life. The family lives in Rancho Murieta and the crew actually went on the medical aid call. Currently they are putting together a shadow box to capture some items so the family will have a lasting memorial to their fallen firefighter.

Battalion Chief Dale Turner and Captain Tom Neville have been volunteering their time to assist the USFS in a Suburban Emergency Response Class. Also had some duty assistance from Stations 21 and 111.

Recognized Engineer Dave Odgers for saving the district thousands of dollars. During a vehicle check of the District Rescue Unit at Station 21, he found a problem with the drive train and transmission which allowed Fleet to correct the problem before something catastrophic happened.

- **SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION REPORT –**

Deputy Chief Jim Eastman updated the Board on the various divisions:

Information Technology –

Communications is working on the Bluetooth project for the new cell phone law that goes into effect July 1; replacing the VHF portable radios; set up the online training access for Microsoft titles via customguide.com. Webstaff is running without issues; upgrading InForum Gold system.

Fleet Division –

Metro Fire received a plaque from The California Fire Mechanics Academy during the Awards Banquet last Wednesday in appreciation of our continuous support of the Academy; work continues on outfitting new engines and ambulances.

Logistics Division –

Received life jackets which are being inventoried for Project River Safe; inventory completed to outfit the three engines at Fleet; installing the second layering for the Wildland Jackets for an additional level of safety to prevent burn injury to line personnel; getting ready for Wildland Season.

Facilities Division –

Work at Station 106 continues on schedule; Facilities staff had several preliminary meetings with McClellan Park property managers to discuss changing the shared emergency generator arrangement at Station 114.

New Construction –

Station 29 moving forward; working with Rancho Cordova on demolition of properties near Station 61.

- **Community Risk Reduction –**
Blight Busters incident – man with a gun arrested after threatening a Rancho Cordova building inspector; received comment card from public on outstanding customer service of Elise Ladd and Melissa Horat; continuing with our mandated inspection of hotels/motels; getting ready for weed abatement and fireworks season.
- **Community Services –**
Blight Busters Event; Brenda Briggs just returned from participating in the certification training standards for the Public Education Officer series; participating with the NFPA Remembering When presentation at Nor Cal and the Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services.

GENERAL COUNSEL’S REPORT—(Chavez)

- None.

COMMITTEE AND DELEGATE REPORTS:**Executive Committee—(Trujillo)**

- Next Meeting: March 27, 2008 –
Immediately following the Regular Board Meeting

Communications Center Delegate—(Valley)

- Tentative workshop date of April 22 to discuss the future of the Comm Center. Received a preliminary study report from the City of Sacramento on a proposal to move the Comm Center into the Sacramento Police Department Communications center, copies to be distributed to the Board.
- Next Meeting: April 29, 2008 – 10:30 PM

California Fire & Rescue Training Authority—(Kelly)

- Next meeting: April 2, 2008 – 10:00 AM

Finance Committee—(Jones)

- Next meeting: April 10, 2008 – 5:00 PM

Policy Committee—(Lawson)

- Reported on today’s meeting.
- Next meeting: April 24, 2008 – 5:00 PM

BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:**Clark:**

- Thanked staff for their excellent reports, especially Finance Director Sponable.
- Thanked Mr. McCampbell for his presentation. Might be good to have a workshop with more detail on workers' compensation.
- Thanked the Fire Chief and Counsel.

Kelly:

- Inquired about news coverage for the "Shave for the Cure" fundraiser.

Fire Chief Mette stated it will be broadcast on Channel 31 tomorrow at 9 AM, with further coverage Sunday on Channel 3. A press release was put out by Captain Christian Pebbles.

Granados:

- Thanked Captain Monahan for taking care of the properties at Rancho Cordova. That was one of their big issues at the 2x2 Committee meeting.
- Commended the staff and employees for doing an excellent job in cutting back on cost.

Lawson:

- Inquired if there is a way to donate after the "Shave for the Cure" event.

Fire Chief Mette stated all donations will go to the "Relay for Life" which takes place in June. Contact Captain Chris Pebbles at (916) 616-2434 for directions to contribute. Virtually every community is participating in the "Relay for Life." Also have a link on our Metro Fire webpage under [Donate to Cancer](#).

- Thanked those that contributed this evening.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Ray Trujillo, President

Gregory A. Granados, Secretary

Charlotte Tilson, Clerk of the Board